

Appl. No. 09/734,262  
Reply to Office Action of August 5, 2005

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (previously presented): An image processing apparatus, comprising:  
storage control means for controlling storage of a plurality of pixels inputted thereto;  
detection means for detecting a boundary line in the proximity of said pixels by  
comparing differences between pixel values associated with at least two of said pixels;  
position calculation means for calculating positions of the boundary line with respect to  
said pixels;

weighting means for weighting the pixel values of said pixels based on the distance  
between said pixels and the positions of the boundary line calculated by said position calculation  
means; and

outputting means for outputting said pixels, wherein the weighted pixel values are  
associated with said outputted pixels.

Claim 7 (previously presented): An image processing method, comprising:  
controlling storage of a plurality of pixels inputted in a storage device;  
detecting a boundary line in the proximity of said pixels by comparing differences  
between pixel values associated with at least two of said pixels;

calculating positions of the boundary line with respect to said pixels;

weighting the pixel values associated with said pixels based on the distance between said  
pixels and the calculated positions of the boundary line wherein weighting the pixel values  
includes blending at least two of the pixel values of said pixels; and

an outputting step of outputting said pixels, wherein the weighted pixel values are  
associated with said outputted pixels.

Appl. No. 09/734,262

Reply to Office Action of August 5, 2005

Claim 8 (previously presented): A recording medium on which a computer-readable program is recorded, the computer-readable program comprising:

a storage control step of controlling storage of a plurality of pixels inputted in a storage device;

a detection step of detecting a boundary line in the proximity of said pixels whose storage has been controlled by the processing of the storage control step by comparing differences between pixel values associated with at least two of said pixels;

a position calculation step of calculating positions of the boundary line with respect to said pixels whose storage has been controlled by the processing of the storage control step;

a weighting step of weighting the pixel values of said pixels based on the distance between said pixels and the positions of the boundary line calculated by the position calculation step, wherein said weighting step includes blending at least two of the pixel values associated with said pixels; and

an outputting step of outputting said pixels, wherein the weighted pixel values are associated with said outputted pixels.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The image processing apparatus of claim 6, wherein the weighting means controls weighting of the pixel values of said pixels when there is no boundary line on left-hand and or right-hand sides of the a noticed pixel or there is no boundary line on upper and or lower sides of the noticed pixel.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The image processing method of claim 7, wherein the weighting step controls weighting of the pixel values of said pixels when there is no boundary line on left-hand and or right-hand sides of the a noticed pixel or there is no boundary line on upper and or lower sides of the noticed pixel.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The recording medium of claim 8, wherein the weighting step controls weighting of the pixel values of said pixels when there is no boundary line on left-hand and or right-hand sides of the a noticed pixel or there is no boundary line on upper and or lower sides of the noticed pixel.